MONTANA GHOST TOWNS AND HISTORIC MINES

Alder -- On State Highway 34 at lower end of fabulous gulch. Two of Plummer's gang of Road Agents, Red Yager and G. W. Brown, were hanged at Laurin, near here, on January 4, 1864. Here begin tailings left by dredge which Harvard University once operated to obtain several millions in gold.

Alder Gulch -- On State Highway 34. This was one of the great gold producers of all time. Discovered in May, 1863, it produced $10,000,000 during the first year. A year later the boom town of Virginia City had a population of 10,000.

Alta Mine -- Inquire at Jefferson City on U. S. 91 between Butte and Helena. Located near the ghost camps of Wickes and Corbin, this mine produced $32,000,000 by 1892.

Atlantic Cable Mine -- Near Georgetown Lake on U. S. 10-A. Mill machinery was imported from Swansea, Wales, and freighted in from Corinne, Utah, to operate this mine and produce $7,000,000 in gold.

Bannack -- Montana's first big gold strike on Grasshopper Creek in July, 1862, resulted in this wild and roaring camp which became Montana's first territorial capital. It is now a State Monument, located west of Dillon, off U. S. 91.

Basin -- On U. S. 91 between Helena and Butte, this camp still lives but it's a lot different now that uranium mines are operating. Inquire for information on the old mines of Gray Eagle, Jib and Comet.

Barker -- Inquire at Neihart on U. S. 89. This is an old silver camp.

Buckeye Mine -- Inquire at Jefferson City on U. S. 91. Here on Golconda Creek near the mine are the remains of an old Spanish arrastra, a crude mill for grinding gold ore, used by the mine's first owners. This is an area where present-day prospectors may be found.

Buffalo Gulch -- This is now Centerville, a suburb of Butte. In the middle '60's this was an offshoot of the placer diggings along nearby Silver Bow Creek.

Butte City -- An earlier version of the famous mining city - the richest hill on earth. Inquire at Butte.

Beartown -- Inquire at Drummond on U. S. 10. This ghost town yielded a cool million in gold and silver in 1866, housed the notorious "Beartown Roughs," sought to be the State Capital, then died. Here there is a steep cliff where, they say, a Chinaman buried a fortune in a five-pound baking powder can. Hundreds have sought it, but it's never been found.

Castle -- This bustling silver camp was once the residence of Calamity Jane and her buddies, but after the panic of 1893 it quieted down. Many of the buildings still stand. Inquire at White Sulphur Springs on U. S. 89.

Cable -- The ground here was so rich that a cigar box of samples assayed $1,000. Here was found, reputedly, the world's largest nugget, bought by W. A. Clark for $19,000, and here is the site of the old Atlantic Cable Mine. Near Georgetown Lake on U. S. 10-A.

Confederate Gulch -- The summer of '64 was sensational in the vicinity all around Last Chance Gulch. Montana Bar, here, yielded as much as a thousand dollars a pan, and $115,000 worth of gold in one week. Diamond City, lively camp of 10,000 people, was the focal point of the gulch which yielded $17,000,000 in an exciting six years. Inquire at Townsend on U. S. 10-N.

Chico -- Ghost camp of U. S. 89, south of Livingston. See Emigrant Gulch.

Clancy -- Ever since the famous Liverpool silver mine ended its million-and-a-half-dollar run in the 90's, this village on U. S. 91 south of Helena has been a mining center. Ore here once was so rich that it was shipped to England to be smelted at a profit.

Copperopolis -- Busy as it was in the 90's, bidding for fame like Butte's, this town now has only deserted shacks and mine shafts. Inquire at White Sulphur Springs on U. S. 89.

Coloma -- Ghost placer camp in the hills north of Bearmouth on U. S. 10.

Diamond City -- See Confederate Gulch.

Deer Lodge -- Here's an early mining town that didn't die, but turned to other pursuits. When the first strikes on Gold Creek started the excitement, this camp was known as Cottonwood, LaBarge and Spanish Forks. The Copper King, W. A. Clark, built his home here in the 60's, at what is now 311 Clark Avenue. Inquire about old mines, and see the local gold exhibit. On U. S. 10-S.

East Helena -- Gold, silver, lead, zinc and other metals from Montana and Idaho are shipped to reduction furnaces here. This is one of Montana's three major operating smelters. Inquire for permission to visit this smelter; see its 4 furnaces with annual capacity of 1/4 million tons of ore.

Elkhorn -- Reached from Boulder on U. S. 91, this camp still has a lot to see. It started in 1872 and sent out $32 million in gold and silver. The townsite is more than a mile high. Nearby Elkhorn Peak with its glistening white marble cliffs stretches 9,500 feet up into the air.

Elliston -- Twenty-one miles west of Helena on U. S. 10-N, this little trade town in a goldquartz and placer mining district has never really boomed. You can pan colors in most of the nearby streams.

Emigrant Gulch -- Off U. S. 89 north from Yellowstone Park. Gold was discovered here in 1862. Chico and Yellowstone City had a short but merry life, but the gold supply proved limited, and Crow Indians showed a liking for the scalps of the inhabitants.

Finn -- Turn off U. S. 10-N at Avon. Even in recent years the small general store here sold almost entirely to miners, and often took gold dust as payment.

Garnet -- Turn off U. S. 10 near Bearmouth, east of Missoula. Here is one ghost camp that refuses to die. Almost 6,000 feet up in the air, it has never had a bonanza strike, yet miners still persist, convinced its day will come.

Giltedge -- Inquire at Lewistown on U. S. 87. Mines in this vicinity took out some $20,000,000 in gold following a stampede caused when one of the sourdough miners made a big splurge at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

Gold Butte -- North of Shelby on U. S. 91 in the Sweet Grass Hills. A Blackfoot Indian found free gold here in 1884. Every shovelful of pay dirt yielded colors worth 25¢.

Gold Dredges -- If you want to see the machinery that can pan gold on a colossal scale, in which a few minutes equals thousands of back-breaking hours of toil for old-time placer miners, visit a gold dredge. A good one to see is located south of Helena on U. S. 91, out of Clancy.

Gold Coin Mine -- Inquire at Georgetown Lake on U. S. 10-A. This was a mine full of surprises. Several times it closed down when its gold ore ran out, but later exploration always brought forth a new ore pocket.

Granite -- Inquire at Philipsburg on U. S. 10-A. This is one of the best of all ghost camps. This was the richest silver mine on earth, and it might never have been discovered if a telegram from the East hadn't been delayed. The miner's backers thought the venture hopeless and ordered an end to operations, but the last blast on the last shift uncovered a bonanza which yielded $40,000,000.

Gregory Mine -- Located in the famous Wickes-Corbin area out of Jefferson City, on U. S. 91 between Butte and Helena. Some old timers claim this property yielded $18,000,000 in gold and silver. In later years, plaster from the walls of abandoned homes yielded a tidy fortune.

Grizzly Gulch -- By driving up Helena's Last Chance Gulch, you arrive at Grizzly Gulch, lined by old diggings. Four miles beyond is Unionville, around which are several old gold mines, including the Spring Hill and Whitlatch Union, and ruins of old stamp and flotation mills.

Greenhorn Gulch -- Another side trip out of Helena. This important placer camp is gone now except for the tiny railraod flag station at Austin. Once the Territorial Governor wired Washington to this effect: "Need Postmaster. Vigilantes have created vacancy by hanging."

Hassel -- Inquire at Townsend on U. S. 10-N for this noted camp.

Hell Gate -- About 3 miles out of Missoula is the site of old Hell Gate Ronde, which Capt. Mullan described in his miners' and Travelers' Guide. In the winter of '63-'64, local citizens worried about six of Plummer's gang loafing here, until a posse from Alder Gulch rode in and hanged them.

Helena -- This is the bonanza center for seekers of old mining lore. Not only was Last Chance Gulch famous as a great placer, but it was and still is the center of Montana's gold and silver mining. By 1888 it was reputedly the richest city per capita in the U. S. with 50 millionaires. Today, the Last Chancer tour train travels to old placers where visitors can pan for gold.

Highland City -- This ghost gold camp, 21 miles from Butte near Pipestone Pass on U. S. 10-S, once had several hundred log buildings and a fierce reputation for gunplay. Despite its once-rich diggings, little now remains except the graveyard where Shotgun Liz, the sharp-shooting dance-hall gal, now lies along with her playmates who died with their boots on. In recent years an old prospector picked up a nugget worth $1,200 here.

Hughesville -- South of Great Falls on U. S. 89, this silver camp of the '70's sent rich ore all the way to England for smelting.

Jefferson City -- On U. S. 91 between Butte and Helena, the old city is famous as the stage and freight stop between Fort Benton and Virginia City. Nearby, fabulous camps such as Corbin and Wickes produced $100,000,000.

Karst's Camp -- Between Bozeman and Yellowstone Park on U. S. 191 is one of Montana's unusual present-day mining ventures -- an asbestos mine.

Kendall -- This camp, out of Lewistown on U. S. 87, along with Giltedge and Maiden, poured out $18,000,000.

Keystone Mines -- Off U. S. 2, out of Yaak in the extreme northwest corner of Montana is situated the Keystone Gold Mining Company. Don't seek this one out unless you crave adventure, for it is located in some of the wildest country imaginable. No major gold strike occurred there.

Last Chance Gulch -- See Helena. The State Historical Library here offers opportunity for research on old ghost towns and mines.

Laurin -- See Alder Gulch. Hangman's Tree where two of Plummer's gang died is near here.

Lump City -- See Clancy. The Liverpool Mine was a rich producer in the 90's, but nothing remains except a single building.

Livingston -- Not a mining town, but you can pick up leads here on nearby camps. Miners and cowpokes rubbed shoulders at the Bucket O' Blood saloon.

Louisville -- Sixteen miles along Cedar Creek out of Superior on U. S. 10 is this ghost camp of the '70's. It was part of the Cayuse Creek stampede which brought 10,000 gold seekers to the vicinity.

Lincoln -- Not a mine camp, but the heart of a present-day mining area. This is located on Montana 20, northwest of Helena. In the vicinity are the old camp of Stemple, the old Gould Mine, the Mike Horse, Jay Gould, North Gould, Bachelor and other mines.

Maiden -- First camp in the Judith and Moccasin fields, which made fortunes for miners drifting out of Alder Gulch. Inquire at Lewistown. See Giltedge.

Marysville -- North of Helena, reached from U. S. 91 over good road. There's more to see here than in most ghost towns. The town is not quite deserted, and some mining still goes on, but it's nothing like the rip-roaring period when Irishman Tommy Cruse's magnificent Drumlummon Mine poured out $50,000,000. Other mines which produced handsomely included the Bald Mountain, Empire, West Belmont, Bell Boy, Penobscot and Shannon.

Mayville -- See Louisville. A ghost of the Cayuse Creek rush, near Superior.

Meaderville -- Now one of Butte's famous surburbs, noted for its night life and superb steak dinners.

Missoula Lode -- Where Humphrey and Allison found the elkhorns used in one of the earliest prospect holes, in what became the richest hill on earth. Now part of Butte.

Monarch -- A sleepy village on U. S. 89 south of Great Falls, it once hoped to be a great silver center. Camps of Neihart and Hughesville are nearby.

Montana Lead Mine -- See Rimini. An interesting side trip out of Helena, it is owned by the estate of the late railroad tycoon, James J. Hill.

Montana City -- One of many ghost camps near Helena. On U. S. 91 toward Clancy. It once had 3,000 people, but not even an old cabin stands now.

Mount Washington Mine -- See Jefferson City. This is a more recent operating property in a district still regarded as capable of good production of gold, silver, lead and zinc.

Neihart -- See Hughesville.

Nevada -- George Ives, better known as Clubfoot George, the first of the Henry Plummer gang to meet justice, was hanged here in the suburb of Virginia City.

New Year -- Near Lewistown. It owes its life to the cyanide process for extracting, not to the richness of the diggings.

Ninah Mine -- Long dead, it was in the famous triangle district of Corbin and Wickes off U. S. 91 from Jefferson City.

Norris -- This is one camp that has never quite died. Corundum of gem quality is found in placer diggings around here.

Oro Fino Gulch -- One of many in the rich Helena district.

Parker -- Near Radersburg, west of Toston on U. S. 10-N. This is the birthplace of movie star Myrna Loy. See Radersburg.

Philipsburg -- Settled in 1866, this is famous silver country, and another exceptional camp that still lives. Here was the Hope Mill, first silver mill in Montana, which doubled as a fort when Indians went on the warpath. A mile away was rich Granite Mountain, claimed to be the greatest silver producer of all. The town and its famous nearby ghost, Granite, are well worth a visit. Located on U. S. 10-A.

Pioneer -- Ruins of a few cabins may still be found, built in 1862 before the Gold Creek placers were abandoned for the first sensational strike at Bannack. Off U. S. 10, southwest of Gold Creek.

Porphyry Dike Mine -- See Helena. A low-grade producer in the mountains near Rimini. It is located along the Continental Divide, out of Last Chance Gulch.

Pony -- Reached from Montana Highway 1. This camp has been busy for some 80 years, and although it never reached top billing, it has been just a notch below it a number of times. Nearby is the ghost of Strawberry, where 6 mills and several arrastras operated before the turn of the century. Millions of dollars of minerals have been taken from Clipper, Boss Tweed, Crystal and Strawberry.

Radersburg -- This is one camp that never gave up the ghost since the Keating Mine opened here in 1866. A few years later the East Pacific started to produce, and up to 1904 together they accounted for $4,000,000. West of Toston, off U. S. 10-N.

Red Rock Mine -- This property has been operated recently, and may be seen east of Florence, on U. S. 93. This is a gold-quartz mine.

Rimini -- This camp, still standing in good condition, makes a nice drive out of Helena on U. S. 10-N. Although in a famous gold district, much of the ore mined here since the '80's has been silver and lead.

Rochester Mine -- This mine and the M and I, the Florence and Silver Dyke were in the Neihart district where some lodes produced as high as 500 ounces of silver to the ton. All of these are in the Little Belt mining District.

Ruby -- At the lower reaches of Alder Gulch, this came alive with Virginia City, but never was sensational. It still stands, and a few people live here. See Alder Gulch, Virginia City and Nevada.

Ruby Gulch Mine -- Two miles out of Zortman, south of U. S. 2 from Malta, this is the most easterly of all Montana gold producing areas. And although this and properties around Landusky produced several million in gold. there's nothing so exciting as the violence, gunplay and legend surrounding the area. Pike Landusky, Kid Curry and his brothers far outdid the wildest western thriller.

Sapphire Mining District -- See Drummond, Garnet, Gold Creek. There is still a lot of silver, sapphire, and phosphate to be found in the Sapphire Mountains, reached from U. S. 10. Inquire at Drummond.

Silver City -- This was the original name of Saltese on U. S. 10, west of Missoula. Plenty of mining lore around here.

Silver Bow -- See Butte.

Silver Dyke -- See Neihart.

Snowstorm Mine -- The area out of Troy on Callahan Creek in extreme northwestern Montana is not a great mining district, but this particular mine has been a heavy producer of ore containing gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper.

Southern Cross -- Near Georgetown Lake on U. S. 10-A, this might never have become a ghost except for the water flowing out of Iron Mountain, which worked against the miners.

Spanish Forks -- See Deer Lodge.

Sylvanite -- Headquarters for Keystone Gold Mining Company in the heavy timber country on U. S. 2, west of Kalispell.

Taft -- This ghost camp once had 2,000 residents, but not so much from mining as from construction, logging and bootlegging. See Saltese.

Travonia Mine -- One of the many on the richest hill on earth at Butte. William Farlin's strike at this point in 1875 started the boom that made Butte the silver city for 20 years. One of the Copper Kings, W. A. Clark, used this one as a stepping stone to great fortune.

Unionville -- A little trip up Last Chance Gulch in Helena will take you to Unionville in a few minutes. It's not a ghost town, but there's no mining now.

Virginia City -- One of the greatest of them all in the entire West. Now recreated, it is a living facsimile of the camp that was Montana's 2nd Territorial Capital, with 10,000 people. See the old Bale of Hay Saloon, Brewery Gardens, Wells Fargo Express office, etc. On Montana Highway 34.

West Belmont Mine -- Near Marysville, and not the same one as the mine named that at Butte. After Tommy Cruse had made his millions in the rich vein of Drumlummon, he deveoped this and Bald Mountain, and added another three or four million to the kitty. Marysville is one of the most accessible of all Montana gold camps, reached from U. S. 91 north of Helena.

York -- Another of the camps near Helena, this one is across the Missouri. Inquire at Helena.

Yogo Gulch -- Site of the famous mines which produced upwards of $10,000,000 worth of some of the most beautiful sapphires in the world. Jim Ettien sold the claim originally for a paltry $1600. Turn south from U. S. 87 near Windham, toward Utica.

Zortman -- See Ruby Gulch Mine.

Don't miss BUTTE -- Montana's modern mining city. Free tours of the famous Kelley Mine are operated daily at 1 p. m. (Mountain Daylight-Saving Time). Inquire at Butte Chamber of Commerce for details.

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